

# Articles to be

enquired in the visitation, in  
the firste yere of the raigne  
of our moste dread Soue-  
raigne Lady, Elizabeth  
by the grace of God,  
of Englande,  
Fraunce,  
and  
Ireland, Quene,  
defendour of  
the faith,

Ac.

20.067  
2

Anno. 1559.



OFFICE OF THE  
SHERIFF

INVESTIGATION  
AND  
RECORDS

RECORDS  
OF THE  
SHERIFF

OF THE  
COUNTY OF  
SHERIFF

1880

# ARTICLES.



First, whether any 1.  
Parson, vicar, or Residence.  
Curate, be residēt  
continually vpon  
his Benefice, do-  
yng his duetie in  
preaching, reding  
and duelye mini-  
stryng the holye  
Sacramentes.

Item, whether 2.  
in theyr Churches False mira-  
cles.

and Chappelles, all Images, Shrynes, all Ta-  
bles, Candelstickes, Crindelles, or rolles of war,  
pictures, payntynges, and all other monimen-  
tes of fayned and false miracles, pylgrymages,  
idolatre, and superstition, be removed, abo-  
lyshed, and destroyed.

Item, whether they do not euery Holydaye 3.  
when they haue no Sermon, immediatly after Lordes  
the Gospell, openly, playnely, and distinctly, re- prayer.  
site to theyr paryshyoners in the Pulpitte, the  
Lordes prayer, the beliefe, and the tenne Com-  
maundementes in Englyshe.

Item, whether they do charge fathers and 4.  
mothers, maisters, and gouernours of youth, To bryng  
to bryng them bp in some bertuous stude and by youth.  
occupation.

*Articles.*

5. **Curates.** Item, whether suche beneficed men as be lawfully absent from theyr benefices, do leaue theyr cures to a rude and vnlearned parson, and not to an honest wel learned and expert Curate whiche can and wyll teache you holesome doctrine.
6. **Redyng the Scriptures.** Item, whether they do discourage any person from readyng of any part of the Byble, either in Latin or Englysh, and do not rather comfort and exhort euery person to read the same at conuenient tymes, as the very lyuely worde of God, and the speciall foode of mans soule.
7. **Tauernes and games.** Item, whether Parsons, vicars, Curates, and other ministers, be common haunters and resorters to Tauernes or Alehouses, geuyng them selues to drynkyng, ryotyng, and playing at vnlawful games, and do not occupy them selues in the readyng or hearynge of some part of holye Scripture, or in some other godly exercise.
8. **Preachers.** Item, whether they haue admitted any man to preache in theyr cures, not beyng lawefully licensed therunto, or haue bene licensed accordingly.
9. **Superstitiis.** Item, whether they vse to declare to theyr parishioners any thyng to the extollyng or setting forth of bayne and superstitious religion, pilgrimages, reliques, or ymages, or lyghtyng of

*Articles.*

of candelles, kysyng, knelyng, deckyng of the same ymages.

Item, whether they haue one booke or Register kept, wherein they wyte the daye of euery weddyng, chrystenyng, and buryng.

10.

Register.

Item, whether they haue exhorted the people to obedience to the Quenes Maiestie, and ministers, and to charitie and loue one to another.

11.

Obedience.

Item, whether they haue admonished theyr parishioners, that they ought not to presume to receiue the Sacrament of the body and bloud of Christ before they can perfectly the Lordes prayer, the articles of the fayth, and the .x. commaundementes in Englyshe.

12.

The Sacrament.

Item, whether they be resident vpon theyr benefices, and kepe hospitalitie or no. And if they be absent and kepe no hospitalitie, whether they do relieue theyr parishioners, and what they geue them.

13.

Hospitalitie.

Item, whether proprietaries, Parsons, Vicars, and clarkes, hauyng Churches, chappels, or mansions, do kepe theyr chauncels, rectories, vicarages, and all other houses appertaynyng to them, in due reparations.

14.

Reparations.

Item, whether they do counsaile or moue theyr parishioners rather to praye in a tounge not knowen, then in Englyshe, or put theyr

15.

Prayer in Englyshe.

*Articles.*

**Beades.** trust in any certayne numbꝛe of prayers, as in saying ouer a numbꝛe of Beades, or other lyke.

**Disfamed persons.** 16. Item, whether they haue receaued any persons to the communion, beyng openly knowen to be out of charitie with theyꝛ neighbours, or dyfamed with anye notorious cryme, and not reformed.

**Pooze mens bore.** 17. Item, whether they haue provided and haue a stronge chest for the pooze mens bore, and set and fastened the same in a place of the Church most conuenient.

**Testamentes.** 18. Item, whether they haue diligently called vpon, exhorted and moued theyꝛ paryshioners, and especially when they make theyꝛ testamentes, to geue to the sayd pooze mens bore, and to bestowe that vpon the pooze, whiche they were wonte to bestowe vpon pilgrimages, pardons, trentalles, and vpon other like blind deuotions.

**Sycke. Buryall.** 19. Item, whether they haue denyed to visite the sicke, or burye the deade, beyng brought to the Church.

**Symonye.** 20. Item, whether they haue bought theyꝛ benefices, or come to them by fraude, gyle, deceit, or symonye.

**Adulterers.** 21. Item, whether they haue geuen open monition to theyꝛ parishioners, to detect and present  
to

*Articles.*

to the<sup>r</sup> Ordinary, all adulterers and fornicators, and such men as haue two wiues liuyng, within the<sup>r</sup> paryshes.

Item, whether they haue monyshed the<sup>r</sup> parishioners openly, that they should not sel, geue, Churche nor other wyse alienate anye of the<sup>r</sup> Churche goodes. 22.

Item, whether they or any of them do kepe mo benefices and other Ecclesiasticall promotions, then they ought to do, not hauyng sufficient licences and dispensations thereunto, and howe many they be, and the<sup>r</sup> names. 23. Many Benefices.

Item, whether they minister the holy Communion any other wyse, then onely after suche fourme and maner as it is set forth by the common aucthoritie of the Quenes Maiestie, and the parliament. 24. Communion.

Item, whether you know any person within your paryshe, or els where, that is a letter of the worde of God to be read in Englyshe, or sincerely preached in place and times conuenient. 25. Letters of the word or preaching.

Item, whether in the tyme of the Letanye, or any other common prayer, in the tyme of the Sermon or Homelye, and when the Priest readeth the Scriptures to the parishioners, anye person haue departed out of the Churche, without iuste and necessarye cause, or disturbe the Minister. 26. Goers out of the Church.



Articles.

Minister other wyle.

27.  
Church money.

Item, whether the money commynge and ry-  
syng of any cattell or other moueable flockes of  
the Church, and mony geuen and bequeathed to  
the fyndyng of torches, lyghtes, tapers, or lam-  
pes, not payde out of any landes, haue not ben  
employed to the poore mens chefte.

28.  
Keepers of  
the Church  
money.

Item, who hath the sayd flockes and money  
in theyr handes, and what be theyr names.

29.  
Contempt  
of Priestes.

Item, whether anye indiscrete persons do  
vnharitably contemne and abuse Priestes and  
Ministers of the Church.

30.  
The kynges  
Grammer.

Item, whether there be any other Grammer  
taught in any scoole within this Diocesse, then  
that which is set forth by the auctoritie of king  
Henry the eight.

31.  
The tyme  
of seruice.

Item, whether the seruice of the Church be  
done at due and conuenient houres.

32.  
Talkers in  
the Church.

Item, whether anye haue bled to common,  
iangle, and talke in the Church in the tyme of  
the prayer, readdyng of the Homylle, preaching,  
readdyng or declaryng of the Scripture.

33.  
Heresies.

Item, whether any haue wylfully maintey-  
ned and defended any heresyes, errors, or false  
opinions, contrary to the faith of Chryll and ho-  
ly Scripture.

Item



*Articles.*

Item, whether any be common Drunkardes, 34.  
Swearers, or blasphemers of the name of God, Drunkardes

Item, whether any haue committed adulterye, fornication, or incest, or be common bawdes, 35.  
or receiuers of such euill persons, or vehemently Adulterers.  
suspected of any of the premisses.

Item, whether any be brawlers, slaunderers, 36.  
chyders, scolders, and sowers of discord betwene Brawlers.  
one person and another.

Item, whether you knowe any that do vse 37.  
charmes, sorcery, enchauntmentes, inuocations, circles, witchcraftes, southsaying, or any  
like craftes or imaginations inuented by the deuill, and specially in the tyme of womens tra-  
uayle, Sorcerers.

Item, whether the Churches, Pulpittes, and 38.  
other necessaries apperteynyng to the same, be Pulpittes.  
sufficiently repayed, and if they be not, in whose  
default the same is.

Item, whether you knowe any, that in con- 39.  
tempt of theirowne parische Church, do resort Resorters to  
to any other Church, other Churches.

Item, whether any Inholders, or Alehouse- 40.  
keepers, do vse commonly to sell meate & drynke Inholders.  
in the tyme of common prayer, preaching, rea-  
ding of the Homilies or Scripture.

Articles.

41. Item, whether you knowe any to be married  
Diuorſe. within the degrees prohibited by the lawes of  
God, or that be ſeperated or diuorſed without the  
degrees prohibited by the lawe of God, and whe-  
ther any ſuch haue married agayne.

42. Item, whether you knowe any to haue made  
Priue con- priue contractes of Matrimonye, not calling  
tractes. two or mo witneſſes therebnto, nor haupng  
thereto the conſent of theyr parentes.

43. Item, whether they haue married ſolempnly,  
Banes. the banes not fyrſt lawfully aſked.

44. Item, whether you knowe any executours or  
Executours adminiſtratours of dead mens goodes, which do  
not duelye beſtowe ſuche of the ſayde goodes as  
were geuen and bequeathed, or appoynted to be  
diſtributed among the poore people, repayryng  
of hygh wayes, fyndyng of poore ſcolers, or ma-  
ryng or poore maydens, or ſuch other lyke cha-  
ritable dedes.

45. Item, whether you knowe any that kepe in  
Images. theyr houſes vndeſaced, any Images, Tables,  
pictures, payntynges, or other monumentes of  
fayned and falſe miracles, pylgrimages, idola-  
try, and ſuperſtition, and do adore them, and ſpe-  
cially ſuch as haue ben ſet by in Churches, Cha-  
pelles, or Oratozies.

46. Item, what Bookes of Gods Scripture you  
Bookes. haue

Articles.

haue deliuered to be burnt, or otherwise destroy,  
ed, and to whom ye haue deliuered the same.

Item, what bybes the accusers, promoters, 47.  
persecutors, Ecclesiasticall iudges, and other the Bybes.  
Commissioners appoynted within the seuerall  
Diocesse of this Realme, haue receiued by them  
selues or other, of those persons whiche were in  
trouble, apprehended, or imprisoned for Religi-  
on.

Item, what goodes, moueable landes, fees, 48.  
offices, or promotions, hath ben wrongfully ta- Lasse of  
ken away in the tyme of Quene Maries raigne, goodes.  
from any person whiche fauoured the Religion  
nowe set forth.

Item, howe many persons for Religion haue 49.  
dyled by fyre, famine, or other wyse, or haue ben How many  
imprisoned for the same. burnt.

Item, that you make a true presentment of 50.  
the number of all the persons which dyled with- Certificat of  
in your parishes, sithen the feast of Saint Iohn the dead.  
the Baptist, which was in the yere of our Lorde  
God a thousande five hundredeth fiftie and eyght,  
bnto the same feast last past. Making therein a  
playne distincte declaration, howe many men,  
women, and men chyldren the same were. And  
the names of the men.

Item, whether ye knowe any man in your Secrete  
paryshe, Passes.

*Articles.*

paryshe, secretlye or in vnlawfull conuenticles, say or heare Masse, or any other seruice prohibited by the lawe.

52. **False rumours.** Item, whether you knowe any person in your Paryshe, to be a slanderer of his neyghbours, or a sower of discorde betwene partie and partie, man and wyfe, parentes and theyr chyl-  
**Unlawfull bookes.** dren, or that hath inuented, bruted, or set forth any rumours, false and sedicious tales, slanders, or makers, byngers, byers, sellers, keepers, or conueyers, of any vnlawfull bookes, whiche myght stirre or prouoke sedition, or mainteyne superstitious seruice within this Realme, or any aydours, counsaylours, procurers, or misynteners therebnto.

53. **Patron. Tythes. Vacation.** Item, whether the Church of your paryshe be nowe vacant or no, who is the Patrone thereof, howe long it hath ben vacant, who doth receiue the tythes, oblations, and other commodities duryng the tyme of the vacation, and by what aucthoritie, and in what estate the sayde Church is at this tyme, and howe long the Parson, or Vicar hath had that Benefice.

54. **Spinsterles.** Item, whether any Spinsterles, or any other persons do vse to syng or saye any songes or dyt-  
ties that be vile or vncleane, and especiallve in derision of any Godly order nowe set forth and establisshed.

Item,

*Articles.*

Item, whether the Letany in Englyshe, with  
the Epistle & Gospel, which was by the Quenes  
highnesse Proclamation wyllde to be read to the  
people, were put in use in your Churches, and if  
not, who were the letters therof.

55.

Letany in  
Englyshe.

Item, whether the Curates and Ministers  
do leysurely, playnely, and distinctly, reade the  
publique Prayers, Chapters, and Homplyes, as  
they ought to do.

56.

Distinct reas-  
dyng.

God saue the Quene.

IMPRINTED AT LONDON IN

Wolles Church yerde by Richard Jugge  
and John Catwood, Printers to the  
Quenes Maiestie.

¶ *Cum priuilegio Regie  
Maiestatis.*